



The ISC Newsletter

International Society of Cryptozoology

Summer 1986
Vol. 5, No. 2

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The ISC Newsletter is an official publication of the International Society of Cryptozoology, and is published for Society members and institutional subscribers. Membership is \$25 annually; institutional subscriptions are \$35. Membership and subscription inquiries and correspondence, should be addressed to ISC, Box 43070, Tucson, AZ 85733, USA; (602) 884-8369.

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ISSN 0741-5362

INTERVIEW

THE LADY OF THE LAKE TALKS ABOUT OGOPOGO



Arlene Gaal

Arlene Gaal is a native of British Columbia, Canada, who began investigating reports of Ogo-pogo, the supposed Lake Okanagan "monster," when she settled in the lakeside town of Kelowna in 1968. A journalist and writer, she is the author of many articles and books on British Columbia life and history, including two on Ogo-pogo: Beneath the Depths: The True Story of Ogo-pogo--Okanagan Lake Monster (Valley Review Publishing, 1976), and Ogo-pogo: The True Story of the Okanagan Lake Million Dollar Monster (Hancock House, 1986). The opinions she expresses below are her own, and do not reflect any positions or policies of the International Society of Cryptozoology.

Greenwell: You have been studying the problem of Ogo-pogo, the supposed "monster" in Lake Okanagan, for many years now, and you have collected a lot of

information and spoken to many witnesses. In summary, do you think that Lake Okanagan harbors a large, living animal, or a colony of large living animals, unknown to science?

Gaal: There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that there is a large, unknown animal--or a group of such animals--living in Lake Okanagan. The main reason I have for concluding this is the credibility of the witnesses that I have spoken to, as well as the accumulated data in the Folden film, shot in 1968, the Thal film, shot in 1981, and the Boisselle film, shot in 1982. We also have numerous photos that have been taken since 1976 that establish that there is something definitely biological and very large living in the lake.

Greenwell: How many still photographs have been taken?

Gaal: We are looking at approximately 9 or 10 still photos that have been taken since 1976. Some are definitely authentic. Others we haven't been able to fully authenticate.

Greenwell: How many actual sighting reports are there on record?

Gaal: Well, there is an appendix in my new book which lists all of the reports, and the total comes to just over 200. Many of these, of course, are from before my time, but most of them are from this century.

Greenwell: How many reports do you get every year? Do you check them all out personally?

Gaal: It varies. In some years, like 1982, there may be only one report. In other



Lake Okanagan, home of Ogopogo. Like Loch Ness, Okanagan is a long, deep, glacial lake, and sightings of large animals in its waters go back to pre-Anglo settlement times.

years, as in 1977, there may be about 20. But the average number of reports coming in over the past 15 years or so is between 6 and 7 a year. I check them all out, even the hoaxes.

Greenwell: You probably have done quite a bit of thinking on what this animal might be, zoologically speaking, and your ideas may have changed over the years. Can you tell us where you stand on this matter?

Gaal: Initially, when my first book came out in 1976, I thought Ogopogo resembled some sort of large sea snake. My opinion has changed over the years. I now think the animal may be similar to a fossil plesiosaur, but without having the long neck structure that the plesiosaur had. Based on the sighting reports, it would have a reptilian head, an extremely large shoulder structure, an elephant-like body, front and back appendages, and a long tail. What you can make of that is actually anyone's guess.

Greenwell: But you think the reports indicate a reptile rather than a mammal, such as

Heuvelmans' giant seal, or Mackal's zeuglodon? Others have proposed giant invertebrates.

Gaal: I am basically in the reptilian school.

Greenwell: Are you proposing a plesiosaur as it lived then, or one that has evolved and been modified?

Gaal: One that has adapted to temperate, freshwater lakes in various parts of the world. I would also say that they are warm-blooded.

Greenwell: Now, you just mentioned lakes in different parts of the world. Do you think that Ogopogo is the same kind of animal as is being reported in Lake Champlain and Loch Ness, and other places, or do you think these lakes may have other kinds of animals, giving rise to the reports there?

Gaal: I think the probability of all these lakes having different kinds of unknown animals does exist, although I tend to doubt it. Because I am limited to gathering reports that come in to me, and with my scientific

knowledge and background not being that great, it is difficult to translate these reports into definitive descriptions, or even to form opinions as to what the animals might or might not be. All I can go by is the data that is presented to me. And until such time as we have more concrete evidence, I prefer to keep an open mind on what they may be.

Greenwell: Even so, you have also read a lot of these other lake reports, published in books and so on. When you read such reports, do they tend to sound familiar?

Gaal: Oh, yes, and I do personally think that many of these lakes do contain the same kind of animals. I don't know what kind they are, but I think they're probably the same.

Greenwell: Have you considered seriously the possibility of some very large fish, like a large sturgeon, being trapped in the lake? I understand that movement between the lake and the sea is now practically impossible.

Gaal: Earlier in the century, it was definitely possible. At this point, it isn't. It seems that whatever Ogopogo is, it's sort of here to stay. It can't get in or out. Studies have been made by the Okanagan Water Basin Board, and they state that there are no sturgeon in the lake at all. I have also talked to divers who have checked the lake system out for years, and they also say there are definitely no sturgeon in the lake.

Greenwell: I don't know exactly how many there are, but I know that there are quite a few other lakes in British Columbia from which similar reports come. Have you looked into that situation?

Gaal: A lake that's very close to Kelowna, and very near Vernon, is Lake Kalamalka. And

it has an animal very similar to Ogopogo that has been reported numerous times. Another nearby lake system is Shuswap Lake. I recently received some very interesting material from an editor of a local newspaper with numerous new reports of a large, unknown animal in Shuswap Lake, and, again, the reports were very similar to what has been given to me either verbally or in writing following Okanagan sightings. We supposedly have 15 freshwater lakes in British Columbia that report "monsters." They may all represent the same animal, perhaps trapped in different lakes following the Pleistocene, when the lakes had direct access to the ocean.

Greenwell: The same scenario has been proposed for Scotland, where there are at least nine lochs that produce the same sort of reports. What are your perceptions in terms of science examining this evidence? Most Canadian scientists, as in other parts of the world, don't seem to take Ogopogo very seriously. What do you think are the reasons for this? Why isn't there more scientific interest?

Gall: I think that scientists base everything on factual knowledge. They must feel that they have to touch it in order to believe it. While this approach is very proper, it rarely happens with lake monsters. Yet, I am very open to investigation.

I am very open to having the evidence checked out, and the film footage analyzed. Unfortunately, due to a lack of funding, or a lack of interest on their part, this just does not seem to happen, at least not as far as Lake Okanagan is concerned.

Greenwell: So you feel you have a significant zoological problem here, that you are pretty much handling alone?

Gall: Very definitely. Even the local dignitaries only really acknowledge the fact that Ogopogo is great for the tourist trade, and so forth. I don't go along with it as a tourist gimmick. There is an animal or a colony of animals here, and the problem is unrelated to the tourist season, and it's unrelated to our local regatta.

Greenwell: You would welcome, then, more scientific investigation and attention? If scientists came here, I take it you would welcome it?

Gall: Yes, I certainly would.

Greenwell: What has been your motivation all these years? What do you feel has inspired you to do all this work?

Gall: Just being interested in unresolved problems and the unknown. I am very interested in the unexplained. Probing

into mysteries has been something that has been with me from childhood. But I like finding solutions. I would love to find a definite solution to the Ogopogo problem. I was sparked by Ogopogo reports when I first arrived in the Okanagan Valley in 1968. I was sparked even more when a gentleman from my home town had a sighting in 1969. It led me to the Chamber of Commerce and the local museum, and I found scattered bits of information on Ogopogo here and there. But what really led me on even further was the knowledge that there was actual film footage taken in 1968. I tried to find out where the film footage was. No one knew. I did further checking, and I finally located the gentleman who took the film. I contacted him up North, and purchased the rights to the film. That, I think, was the true beginning of my investigation.

Greenwell: Do you have any advice for cryptozoologists who plan to pursue the study of their own, local cryptozoological problems?

Gall: Well, the most important thing is to maintain an open mind. Keep an open mind, investigate the facts carefully, and check out the credibility and reliability of the reports. This is the most important advice I can offer. □

IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER FOUND ALIVE IN CUBA

The ivory-billed woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) has been the subject of heated debate since World War II among ornithologists, conservationists, and federal agencies. The debate has been over whether the 20-inch-long bird, the largest woodpecker in North America, still survives in the remote swamp forests of the U.S. Southeast.

The bird's striking appearance is characterized by shiny black plumage, and a white stripe down the neck to the back. Females have a black crest, males a red one, and both have a pale ivory-colored bill, giving rise to its name. Its U.S. range was believed to be from east Texas to southern Illinois to the Carolinas and Florida. The bird, which was

thought to live for up to 30 years and to mate for life, was never very common—or, at least, was never observed very often.

The last "undisputed" sighting was in 1941 by James T. Tanner, now a retired University of Tennessee professor. Dr. Tanner and others do accept sightings into the 1950's, but claimed sightings over the past



The ivory-billed woodpecker. Although it has been re-discovered in Cuba, its present existence in the southeast U.S. swamp forests remains in doubt, despite many eyewitness reports. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.)

30 years have been much more controversial. Sighting reports have not been supported by photographic evidence. Finally, in early 1985, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Department of the Interior's agency charged with monitoring and protecting U.S. wildlife, initiated a "status review" of the woodpecker "to determine if this species is extinct and should be removed from the U.S. List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife." The review concerned both subspecies, *C. p. principalis* in the United States, and *C. p. bairdii* in Cuba, which was also believed extinct.

In making the announcement, USFWS noted that most of the reports it had received over the past 30 years were "clearly" of

the pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), which is "often confused" with the ivory-billed. However, the Service noted that some reports "seemed to indicate some possibility that one or more ivory-bills were wandering around the southeastern United States during the 1950's, and, perhaps, later decades." The Service stated: "Any person, organization, or agency with biological information on the current status of this bird, if it still exists, is encouraged to write [in]. Photographs and other confirming materials are especially solicited; however, all reports are welcome."

USFWS condemned previous instances in which supposed knowledge on ivory-bills had been withheld, in the hope that the species would be thus better

protected. "While understandable," USFWS concluded, "this approach also results in a lack of knowledge for those agencies that could manage the habitat to benefit the species."

No photographic evidence was received, but the Service convened a meeting of woodpecker experts in January, 1986, at which recent eyewitness reports from Louisiana were evaluated. It was decided that a "last-ditch" 5-year search should be undertaken before the bird is declared officially extinct.

Marshall P. Jones, an endangered species specialist at USFWS's Regional Office 4 (Atlanta) stated that, ideally, a woodpecker expert should be retained for the study, but that funding might be a problem. Also, swamp terrain is extremely hard to do fieldwork in. Working for 5 years in the Southeastern swamp forests could be very trying, not to mention hazardous, and there is no guarantee that the study would be conclusive. Optimistically, Jerome A. Jackson, a woodpecker expert at Mississippi State University, stated: "I really believe there is a possibility." Pessimistically, Dr. Tanner, who had the last "official" sighting, stated: "I'm conditioned by the fact that I've been on so many wild goose chases for this bird. I've spent years looking in so many places."

Soon afterwards, the story of the ivory-billed woodpecker took a dramatic turn, as the scene shifted to Cuba. Although their subspecies was believed extinct since the 1970's, some Cuban biologists were stimulated by more recent unconfirmed reports, and they had invited Lester L. Short, a woodpecker expert and Chairman of the Ornithology Department at New York's American Museum of Natural History, to accompany them on an expedition in 1985. They found what they thought were tree bark-stripping signs (the manner in

which ivory-bills were known to search for insects), but had no sightings.

The Cuban team, led by Giraldo Alayon and Alberto Estrada, continued searching, and, after receiving information from a forest worker, had a definite sighting of an ivory-billed woodpecker on March 16, 1986. The sighting took place in Guantanamo Province, in the northeastern part of Cuba. Dr. Short returned to Cuba the following month to join in further searching. With him was Jennifer Horne, a Kenyan woodpecker expert (to whom Dr. Short is married), and George D. Renard, who is making recordings of Cuban birds. Between April 6 and 16, the team had fleeting glimpses of what they thought was an ivory-bill about every 2 days, but they were unable to obtain any photographs—a familiar problem in cryptozoology. They think that at least two, and possibly three individual birds were involved, but after such sightings, Dr. Short would wonder: "Was that really it?"

Then, as the expedition neared its end, he saw what he had hoped for years to see. On

April 16, while negotiating the forest undergrowth, he reacted to the sound of wings, and saw what was unmistakably a male ivory-bill being pursued by a crow. It flew within 18 feet of him, but it was gone before he could raise his camera. "I said to myself," he recalled later, "'My God, there it is....'"

The sightings caused considerable excitement in Cuba, and the government closed down logging operations in the area. "It's going to be an economic hardship for the Cubans," said Dr. Short, "but they're well aware that these are probably the last ivory-bills in the world.... One hurricane could wipe them out. Their chances of survival are on the narrow side, regardless of what is done."

The discovery has also raised new hopes that the species may also be re-discovered in the U.S. Southeast, and perhaps increased in numbers through conservation measures. Barring that, there is talk of introducing the species into the United States from Cuban stock. The two subspecies have a slightly different white marking under

the chin, but "they're essentially the same bird as far as I'm concerned," says Dr. Short. However, two serious problems would have to be resolved before any reintroductions can take place, one genetic, and one political. First, the Cuban subspecies would have to reproduce itself in sufficient numbers and in various locations before the risks involved in relocations could be taken. At least 10 and probably 20 years or more would have to pass before this could come about.

On the political front, the frigid diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba would make such cooperation difficult at this time, putting Dr. Short in the unique position of being able to carry out what he calls "woodpecker diplomacy." Cuban officials have reportedly responded favorably to Dr. Short's inquiries in this area.

Now that the ivory-billed woodpecker has been rediscovered in Cuba, perhaps its continued presence in the United States will eventually be established, making such a subspecies transplant unnecessary. □

CHICAGO MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Society's 1986 Membership Meeting was held on June 14, 1986, in the Dora DeLee Auditorium of the University of Chicago Medical Center. The Membership Meeting followed the Board of Directors Meeting on June 13, both of which were hosted by the University's Department of Biology. Board Member Leigh Van Valen, a paleobiologist, chaired the Board meeting, and ISC Vice President Roy Mackal, a biochemist, moderated the Membership Meeting.

The Membership Meeting began with a customary social hour, which permitted the mainly Mid-western members attending to get

acquainted. The first talk was given jointly by William P. Cacciolfi, Marc E. Miller, and Thukten Philip Sherpa, on "Results of the 1986 American Yeti Expedition." The speakers, who are associated with New World Expeditions, in Yellow Springs, Ohio, discussed their visit to the Khumbu region of the Himalayas, particularly to the Buddhist monasteries in Khumjung, Thyangboche, and Pangboche, and their examination of alleged Yeti evidence. Mr. Cacciolfi illustrated his presentation with slides and a movie film. Dr. Miller, a neuropsychologist, presented a general description of the Yeti

based on accounts by the local Sherpa people.

Thukten Philip Sherpa, who was visiting the United States as a guest of New World Expeditions, talked of the strong belief in the Yeti among his people, describing the different kinds of Yeti reported. He said he was particularly pleased to be speaking at the University of Chicago as it was the same institution at which his father, Khonjo Khumbi, had spoken in 1961 with Sir Edmund Hillary—the conqueror of Mount Everest in 1953—who had led an unsuccessful expedition in 1960 in an attempt to prove the Yeti's



Thukten Philip Sherpa, speaking where his father spoke.

existence.

Sir Edmund, currently New Zealand ambassador to Nepal, had teamed up with the late naturalist Marlin Perkins, and they had an alleged Yeti scalp held by a Buddhist monastery analyzed in the United States. Their conclusion was that it probably had come from a goat hide, although villagers still insist it is a Yeti scalp. The New World Expedition group was able to examine and photograph the scalp, as well as an alleged Yeti hand.

The second talk was given by Grover S. Krantz, a Washington State University physical anthropologist, who spoke on "A Reconstruction of the Skull of Gigantopithecus, and Its Implications for Sasquatch Research." Dr. Krantz, who serves on the Society's Board of Directors, had produced, for the first time, a three-dimensional reconstruction of the skull of this large Plio-Pleistocene hominoid (considered by Dr. Krantz to be a hominid). From his original mold, Dr. Krantz can make casts, one of which he had at his talk for illustrative purposes, and which can be purchased from his laboratory for under \$200.

The only actual fossil remains of Gigantopithecus are two mandibles and about 1,000 teeth, but Dr. Krantz has used

anatomical principles to reconstruct the entire skull, from which he can make approximate calculations concerning the whole animal, including the fact that it was probably bipedal.

The reconstructed Gigantopithecus skull dwarfs a human skull, and even diminishes the impact of a gorilla skull. A full-grown male lowland gorilla skull measures approximately 20 cm in height and 20 cm in breadth (at the zygomatics); the newly reconstructed Gigantopithecus skull measures 32 cm in height and 27 cm in breadth.

If some Sasquatch reports result from observations of living gigantopithecines, as many, including Dr. Krantz, have proposed, then the reconstructed skull presented in Chicago not only represents what a Gigantopithecus skull may have looked like (which is verifiable if a fossil skull of the species is ever recovered), but also what the skull of a supposed Sasquatch looks like (which is verifiable if a Sasquatch specimen is ever obtained).

Dr. Krantz, who proposed Gigantopithecus as the best candidate for Sasquatch at the Society's ICSEB III Symposium last year in Brighton, England, will be preparing a technical paper on his new reconstruction for Cryptozoology.



Christine Janis. Did the ancients know fossil animals?

Following lunch, the next speaker was Christine Janis, a paleomammalogist at Brown University, who serves on the Editorial Board of Cryptozoology. Dr. Janis' talk, "Possible Survival of Fossil Animals Into Historical Times," was similar to her paper prepared for the 1985 Brighton symposium, but which she was then unable to attend (it was read in Brighton by her colleague Kathy Scott, of Rutgers University).

Dr. Janis proposed that a number of fossil mammal species may have survived their presumed extinction—as indicated by the fossil record—and may have been known to early civilizations. Dr. Janis further proposed that such species may have been depicted in artwork and archaeological artifacts she has examined, such as sivatheres in Mediterranean sculpture, a chalicothere in the Siberian frozen tombs, a giant aquatic hyrax in a Chinese sculpture, and a deinothera depicted on a Chinese carpet. Dr. Janis illustrated her talk with slides of the examples given. She will be preparing a paper based on her talk, which will be submitted to Cryptozoology.

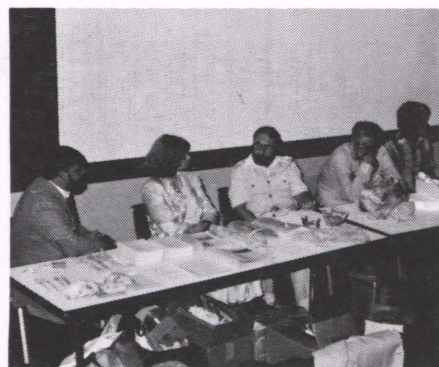
The final talk was given by Richard Greenwell, the Society's Secretary, who spoke on "Preliminary Observations Resulting From the Acquisition of a Specimen of an Onza." His illustrated talk reviewed the early history of the Onza, and the obtaining and dissecting of the first specimen in Mexico in January, 1986 (see Newsletter, Spring, 1986). The Onza is a legendary Mexican cat, with similar size and coloration to a puma (mountain lion), but said to be longer-legged, more gracile, faster, and more aggressive.

Mr. Greenwell's slides showed the differences in limb bone measurements between the female Onza and three female pumas. He

stated that the Onza limb bones were about the length of those from a much more robust male puma, although they retained their gracile proportions.

Further biochemical and osteological work should define what the Onza is, and its relationship to other large cats. Mr. Greenwell is working with University of New Mexico mammalogist Troy Best and West German mammalogist Helmut Hemmer, of the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz.

The Membership Meeting ended with a panel discussion, during which the audience directed questions to the speakers. The only disappointment at the meeting was the absence of Charles A. Reed, a physical anthropologist at the University of Illinois in Chicago, who had been scheduled to give a talk, but was unable to attend because of surgery (he is now fully recovered). The Society is indebted to Dr. Van Valen and Dr. Mackal for their arrangements and efforts to make the 1986 Meetings successful. □



Chicago panel discussion. Left to right, Mr. Cacciolfi, Dr. Janis, Mr. Greenwell, Dr. Krantz, and Mr. Thukten.

ISC BOARD MEETS IN CHICAGO

The Board of Directors of the Society met on June 13, 1986 (one day prior to the 1986 Membership Meeting), in the Department of Biology, The University of Chicago. Leigh Van Valen, a paleobiologist in the Department, hosted and chaired the meeting, but delegated the chairpersonship to ISC Vice President Roy Mackal after the meeting began. Also present were Board member Grover Krantz, ISC Secretary Richard Greenwell, and, as guests, E. B. Winn, ISC Secretary for Europe, Benefactor Robert C. Dorion, and, for the afternoon session, Christine Janis, a member of the Editorial Board of *Cryptozoology*.

Among other things, the Board discussed and approved the creation of the Cryptozoology Operations Foundation Group (see separate article, this issue), approved the move of the Society Secretariat to a new, small business office in Tucson, and elected two new members to the Board (see separate article, this issue). The important topics were, as usual, sent to the entire Board for voting subsequent to the Chicago meeting.

On another issue, the Board voted to alter a policy created at the 1984 Paris Board meeting concerning the Society's sponsorship of expeditions or field-

work. A funding category exists for "research," and such research projects may now be both laboratory-oriented or field-oriented. In a very limited number of instances, the Society would assume sponsorship of such research projects if 1) a Society research committee first approves a project proposal; 2) the investigator (or another, third source) provides the funds; and 3) the funds be channeled through the Society. The Society would not retain any of the funds for other operations. Interested persons should contact the Secretary of the Society. □

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

As readers will see elsewhere in this issue, two founding Board members have stepped down after serving 4 years, and Eugenie Clark and David Heppell have been elected to replace them. We owe a debt of gratitude to the retiring Board members, Forrest Wood and George Zug, who not only endorsed the concept of cryptozoology, and the Society itself, with their names and reputations, but had a definite influence on the direction which the Society was to take.

George Zug, a Smithsonian herpetologist—who was Chairman of the Department of Vertebrate Zoology at the time—provided the very appropriate setting of the National Museum of Natural History for the Society's birth: its founding meeting in January of 1982. The founding Board members came from different backgrounds, were in different disciplines, and had different ideas, and it was at that meeting, after lengthy discussions, that the Society's course was set. Forrest Glenn Wood (yes, that is his full name), a marine mammalogist with the U.S. Navy, who hosted the 1985 ISC meetings, was of immeasurable help to me in those first years. Whenever I needed advice on anything, which was often, Woody was always there to provide it, either verbally or in writing. Although we did not agree on absolutely everything, I could not have done it without him.

J. Richard Greenwell
Secretary

"Now, I have no objection to incompetence, but I do object when incompetence is accompanied by boredom and self-righteousness."

Paul Feyerabend
"How To Defend Society Against Science," in *Scientific Revolutions* (Ian Hacking, ed.), Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1981.

SOCIETY FOUNDATION GROUP FORMED

At its annual meeting on June 13 in Chicago, the Society's Board of Directors approved the establishment of the Cryptozoology Operations Foundation Group (COFG), an entity which will operate as a funding mechanism within the Society to help cover operational expenses.

The impetus for COFG came about as a result of continual shortfalls the Society suffers towards the end of each fiscal year (March 1 to February 28), due to insufficient membership income. Society membership continues to hover around 700, with new members merely making up for non-renewals every year. With increased expenses, including higher printing and postage costs, the Society ideally should have about 1,200 members in order to meet its operational expenses.

Various membership drives—including extensive efforts by ISC European Secretary Ned Winn—have met with mixed results. A program to increase institutional library subscriptions has not been very successful because of the proliferation of new journals in recent years, and budget cuts forcing many libraries to reduce the number of journal subscriptions instead of increasing them. Another option would be to raise membership dues, say to \$30, but the Board has been very reluctant to move in that direction, as, in the long run, more may be lost than gained because of increased membership dropouts.

Thus, while the Society has relied on the generosity of its Benefactors at the end of each year to make ends meet, COFG was proposed as an operational entity which would formalize such Benefactor participation, and, hopefully, attract more Benefactors. One of the Benefactors involved in the planning

of COFG has even offered a "matching funds" challenge to all ISC members who are interested: he will double their minimum \$1,000 contributions (up to a maximum total of \$5,000 a year).

The Board has now approved the following operational procedures for COFG:

- 1) Any ISC member may join COFG by contributing a minimum of \$1,000 (there is no maximum) for a given year. Such contributions are tax-deductible to members in the United States, as the Society has a recognized tax-exempt status with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.
- 2) Such a contributor, besides forming part of COFG for that year, automatically becomes a Benefactor to the Society, which includes a life membership—including receipt of all publications—without having to pay anything ever again, unless he or she wants to.
- 3) COFG members will be appropriately identified in the Society's publications.
- 4) COFG members must renew their affiliation every year (minimum \$1,000) if they wish to continue forming part of COFG, and being thus identified (failure to do so will not affect their separate status as lifelong Benefactors).
- 5) COFG members will not play any policy-making role in the Society, although they can make their contributions applicable to specific expenditure categories if they wish.

As indicated above, one Benefactor is challenging other ISC

members thusly: for every \$1,000 each contributes, he will double the contribution, dollar for dollar, every year, up to a total maximum of \$5,000 a year. In other words, if \$5,000 can be raised by, for example, five Benefactors each donating \$1,000, he will double the \$5,000 to \$10,000 for that given year—and that figure approximately equals the amount the Society is in the red each year.

To get COFG launched, a special letter announcing its formation was sent out to over a dozen ISC members who were considered potential participants in COFG. This announcement is now being made in the Newsletter to the entire membership. Those members who are able to participate in COFG, and who want to see the Society finally get on a more solid financial footing, are requested to contact the Secretary as soon as possible. At press time, two ISC members have already supported the Society by joining COFG, and it is hoped that several others will do so before the end of the fiscal year. □

"When you find something you really like to do and you're willing to risk the consequences of that, you really ought to go do it."

Francis R. Scobee
Commander, Challenger
NASA STS Mission 51L
January, 1986

"I would have loved to have been on that flight and taken that risk with them. In truth, everything in life that's worthwhile is a risk."

June Scobee
Memorial Lecture,
University of Arizona
April, 1986

CLARK, HEPPELL JOIN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eugenie Clark and David Heppell, who have been serving on the Editorial Board of Cryptozology since the Society's founding in 1982, have been elected by the Board of Directors to become new Board members. They are replacing founding Board members Forrest Wood and George Zug, who are stepping down after serving for 4 years. Dr. Clark and Mr. Heppell, upon joining the Board of Directors, are stepping down from the Editorial Board. At the same time, Dr. Zug is joining the Editorial Board.

Following work at both the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the Woods Hole Marine Biological Station, Dr. Clark obtained a doctorate at New York University in 1950, after which she taught biology at Hunter College and the City University of New York. Since 1968, she has been on the faculty of the Department of Zoology, University of Maryland. Known mainly for her work on the physiology and behavior of sharks, Dr. Clark has done fieldwork in the Caribbean, the



Eugenie Clark with embryo tiger shark caught off Mexico. (David Doubilet.)

Red Sea, Mexico, Japan, Australia, and India, and is the author of over 70 technical papers, two dozen popular articles, and two books, Lady With a Spear (Harper Bros., 1953), and The Lady and the Sharks (Harper & Row, 1969). She was the subject of the biography Shark Lady: True Adventures of Eugenie Clark, by Ann McGovern (Four Winds Press, 1979), and has been featured by the National Geographic Society in its television productions.

Dr. Clark is a member of numerous scientific societies and has been a consultant to many organizations, including the Office of Naval Research, the National Science Foundation, and the United Nations. Her many awards, medals, and recognitions are too numerous to list here. The Society is honored to have her as a Director.

David Heppell is an internationally known mollusc expert whose early ambition was, in fact, to be a museum zoologist. Although trained as a dental surgeon at the University of London (1956-1961), Mr. Heppell subsequently pursued his doctoral training in zoology at Glasgow University. He has held appointments at the British Museum (Natural History), the Linnean Society of London, and the Royal Scottish Museum (now the Royal Museum of Scotland), where he is now Curator of Mollusca. Mr. Heppell, who also has had a lifelong interest in historical zoology, has done fieldwork throughout the British Isles, Spain, the Mediterranean, and the Adriatic. He is a member of many British and international scientific societies, is the author of many technical publications, and has served on the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature since 1972.



David Heppell

Mr. Heppell chaired the Society's symposium "Cryptozology: The Search for Unknown or Supposedly Extinct Animals," held as part of the III International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology (ICSEB III) in Brighton, England, in July of 1985. We particularly welcome him as the first British member of the Society's Board of Directors. □

"In general let every student of nature take this as a rule--that whatever his mind seizes and dwells upon with peculiar satisfaction is to be held in suspicion; and that so much the more care is to be taken, in dealing with such questions, to keep the understanding even and clear."

Francis Bacon
Novum Organum, 1620

"An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject, and how to avoid them."

Warner Heisenberg
Physics and Beyond
(by R. N. Anshen, ed.)
Harper & Row, New York, 1971.

LOCH NESS YIELDS ONE SECRET

One of the interesting discoveries that were made in Loch Ness during the Academy of Applied Science (AAS) work there in the 1970's was the sonar detection of a crashed aircraft. First discovered by Martin Klein in 1976, using his famous Klein Associates side-scan sonar, he believed it to be a U.S. PBV "flying boat" from World War II.

Klein, now an ISC member, obtained more detailed sonar data in 1978, and the Underwater Technology Group of Scotland's Heriot-Watt University then used a subsurface remote-controlled unit to get clear photographs of the aircraft, which was resting at a depth of 230 feet. Their conclusion, confirmed later that year by Klein, was that it was a British Wellington bomber. The Royal Navy sent divers down the following year, and the identification was reconfirmed. The aircraft, N2980, had been code-named "R for Robert," and it represented one of only two surviving Wellington bombers—or Wimpeys, as they were affectionately called—of the 11,461 built by Vickers for Bomber Command, Royal Air Force (RAF), between 1936 and 1945. Furthermore, N2980, unlike its surviving twin, had seen combat. Because of its historical significance, plans were initiated to recover, restore, and exhibit it, and the Loch Ness Wellington Association (LNWA) was formed for that purpose in 1984.



The N2980 Wellington bomber's first ghostly image on a Klein sonar record. (Klein Associates, Inc.)

Various British firms provided funding, expertise, and equipment to LNWA. The plan was to raise the aircraft, nestled in a specially constructed aluminum frame, with flotation bags. The recovery was planned for September 9-14, 1985, but bad weather delayed the operation. On September 17, the aircraft was lifted, but, after rising about 10 feet, the frame buckled under the weight, and collapsed. The salvage attempt was almost abandoned, but a new steel frame was rapidly constructed, and the salvage was successfully completed on the night of September 20-21. "There are no teeth marks on the plane," LNWA Chairman Robin Holmes announced.

The 12-ton bomber is now being restored, and will eventually be exhibited at the new Brooklands Museum, due to open in 1987 in Weybridge, Surrey. (The other surviving Wellington is at the RAF Museum in Hendon, London). N2980 participated in 14 bombing missions over Germany, 8 more than the average life expectancy of a Wellington under enemy fire. It formed part of a famous raid over Wilhelmshaven on December 18, 1939, during which half of the 24 participating Wellingtons were lost to enemy action, mainly fighter aircraft, and only seven of the returning 12 aircraft ever flew again. These losses resulted in Bomber Command switching to night-time bombing missions. The pilot of N2980 on that fateful night, Group Capt. Paul Harris, received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

How did N2980 end up in Loch Ness? In October, 1940, it had finally been retired from combat duty, and assigned to training missions. It was during one such training mission, on New Year's Eve, 1940, that engine failure forced the pilot, Squadron Leader Nigel Marwood-Elton, to ditch the aircraft in Loch



A small section of N2980 being raised after spending 45 years in Loch Ness. (Joseph Zarzynski.)

Ness. Five of the six crew members who bailed out made it down safely, and Marwood-Elton and the co-pilot paddled ashore in a dinghy, "without even getting their feet wet," as N2980 sank out of sight of human eyes for 45 years.

Certainly, neither Group Captain Harris, 79, nor Squadron Leader Marwood-Elton, 76, ever thought they'd see their old plane again. But they did. Since then, the death of Group Captain Harris has been reported: he died on December 29, 1985, 2 days before the 45th anniversary of the ditching of his Wimpey in Loch Ness.

Although the search for Nessie continues, the ordeal of the N2980 is over. The successful recovery of the last of what was once called "the most prolific and successful of the two-engined bombers" of the war has been described as "probably the most ambitious aviation archaeological project ever undertaken."

A final footnote, which brings the story of N2980 full circle to a happy conclusion in a troubled world: the all-terrain crane used for lifting the bomber from the loch's surface to land was built at a Krupp factory in Germany. Its location: Wilhelmshaven. □

CRYPTOLETTERS

The Editor welcomes letters from readers on any topic related to cryptozoology, but reserves the right to shorten them or to make slight changes to improve style and clarity, but not meaning.

To the Editor:

I was interested in the news of a possible new, small bear species in Nepal (Newsletter, Spring, 1984, and Spring, 1985).

I would like to mention that some hunters have mentioned what sounds like this bear in their books. For example, Lt. Col. H. S. Wood, in his book Shikay Memoirs (J. & J. Gray, Edinburgh, 1934), in Chapter X, "The Indian Bear," stated: "The Nepalese say that there is a still smaller variety of the Himalayan Bear, and that it is much more savage than the larger variety. They called it Sano Reech."

To the best of my knowledge, Colonel Wood did not visit the Barun Valley, nor the area near the foothills of Mount Makalu. His favorite hunting grounds were northeast India (Assam). Consequently, the range of this possible new species may be much larger than what Dr. Taylor-Ide suspects.

Raza Teshin
Udaipur, India

To the Editor:

With regard to the giant octopus material (Newsletter, Autumn, 1985), I thought I would bring to the attention of other readers the following excerpt from a book called Sharks Are Caught at Night by Francois Poli (Rupert Hart-Davis, London, 1958), first published in France in 1957 under the title Les Requins Se Pachent La Nuit. Poli

is a French writer who had journeyed to the Caribbean to observe shark-fishing methods in Cuba, Haiti, and Nicaragua.

Writing of the Cuban shark-fishermen, Poli states:

They talked of the gigantic octopuses of the Caribbean, measuring 50 feet across and capable of dragging down a 20-foot boat, or even seizing a man in a single tentacle and drowning him. These creatures never surfaced, they said, except on certain nights when the moon was full; then they floated for a few minutes, their phosphorescent eyes on a level with the water. These beasts moved with the speed of a shark, attacked everything within reach of their tentacles and feared but one enemy--the cachalot. Cases were cited of captured whales whose bodies still bore traces of suckers the size of No Entry signs.

These lines are from pages 102 and 103 of the Henry Regnery paper edition, published in 1975. The Poli book appears to be a factual account in all respects. It would appear that the giant Caribbean octopus is a real creature, judging from the accumulating evidence.

Ronald Rosenblatt
New York City, U.S.A.

To the Editor:

In my 1985 Field Report in Cryptozoology, Vol. 4, "Investigations in the Lake Champlain Basin, 1985," I referred to large, midwater sonar echoes recorded on three occasions, and noted: "Although none may be said at this time to represent contacts with large, unknown

animals, they merit further investigation, and have been submitted...to sonar experts for their comments." In the opinion of two sonar experts, the large traces in Figure 1 of said report most likely represent sonar reflections of large fish.

Harold Edgerton, professor emeritus of electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, noted that a large body passing through the beam would probably cause a downwards trace on the chart as the body left the beam, which appears to be absent in Fig. 1 (personal meeting, January 24, 1986). William Konrad, of the U.S. Naval Underwater Systems Center, Niantic, Connecticut, observed that the targets are probably "good size fishes ascending while being illuminated by successive pulses narrow enough in beam width so as to resolve the target horizontally. This is evidenced by the apparent spaces between returns" (personal correspondence, May 13, 1986).

The passage of many cryptozoological animals may be recorded by sketching, photographing, or casting their alleged footprints. In the case of aquatic animals, however, the rather more ambiguous sonar chart recording method must be used. Although I purposely drew no conclusions regarding our 1985 sonar work at Champlain, pending the input of sonar experts, I wish to communicate to the journal's readers that the examination was made, and to share the experts' comments. We are proceeding with our use and understanding of sonar as an important tool in cryptozoological field research.

Richard D. Smith
Rocky Hill, New Jersey, U.S.A.

"There ain't no myskey to life.
Ya gits borned an' tha's all
they is to it."

Popeye

WOOD'S ANIMAL FACTS

The largest living invertebrate is the giant squid (Architeuthis sp.), the many-armed Kraken of Scandinavian legend, which allegedly dragged small fishing vessels down to their doom. Although some of the great museums of Europe had physical evidence of this fabulous sea monster...the scientific world remained dubious of the existence of the giant squid right up to the middle of the 19th century.

. . . In 1873 . . . two herring fishermen and a 12-year-old boy were attacked by a huge individual.... It was possible to estimate the size of this giant squid: head and mouth, length 12 ft. (3.7 m.), tentacles, 32 ft. (9.8 m.), total length, 44 ft. (13.4 m.). There was also a stranding in Coomb's Cove, Fortune Bay. This one had

a total length of 52 feet (15.9 m.).... Another very large example washed up at West St. Modent in the Strait of Belle Isle, Labrador, also measured 52 ft. (15.9 m.), and must have been much heavier.... In the 1900's and 1930's, there were further sightings and strandings in the same waters, and during the period 1963-1967 10 giant squids were brought to the Marine Science Research Laboratory at the Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, for scientific examination. The largest example...measured 31 ft., 6 in. (9.6 m.) in length.

The largest squid so far recorded ran aground at Thimble Tickle Bay, Newfoundland, in 1878. The capture of this monster (Architeuthis princeps) was described by the Rev. Harvey in a letter to the Boston Traveler:

"...It was a splendid specimen--the largest yet taken--the body measuring 20 feet from the beak to the extremity of the tail... one of the arms measured 35 feet."

The largest giant squid recorded this century was a 47-foot (14.3 m.)-long specimen captured by a U.S. Coast Guard vessel near the Tongue of the Ocean on the Great Bahamas Bank in 1966 after being involved in a fight with a sperm whale. The carcass, or what was left of it, was later handed over to the Institute of Marine Sciences at the University of Miami...one arm is now on deposit at the Natural History Museum at Vienna, Austria.

Abstracted from:

The Guinness Book of Animal Facts and Feats, by Gerald L. Wood, Guinness Superlatives, Enfield, U.K. (3rd ed.), 1982.

Honorary Members: Andre Capart (Belgium); Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer (South Africa); David James (United Kingdom); Marie-Jeanne Koffman (Soviet Union); Ingo Krumbiegel (Federal German Republic); Theodore Monod (France); John R. Napier (United Kingdom); Sir Peter Scott (United Kingdom).

Benefactors: G. A. Buder, III (United States); Robert C. Dorion (Guatemala); Michael T. Martin (United States); Gale J. Raymond (United States); Kurt Von Nieda (United States); E. B. Winn (Switzerland); Bette and Joe Wolfskill (United States).

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